

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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OUT WITH THE SALT CARAVAN

Age-old trek across the desert

In the red-mud walled city of Kano in Northern Nigeria the camel salt caravan is now getting ready for its bi-annual trek into the Tenere Desert—a section of the Sahara. M. Maurice Fievet, a French Colonial officer, who has travelled on one of these salt caravans, has described the strange, exciting journey to a CN friend.

ONE of the oldest trading ventures in Africa, camel salt caravans make their way to the town of Fachi, the salt capital on the eastern edge of the Tenere Desert. Here, for many centuries, the Kanuri people have scooped up the wet salt from depressions in the desert and piled it up to dry like children's sand castles on a beach.

More than 300 camel caravans converge on Fachi every year, for there is a handsome profit to be made by the sale of salt in the cities of Nigeria.

SMALLER NUMBERS

Oddly enough, in spite of salt from Britain being sold at one-twentieth of the price, and in neat packages, the desert salt is still preferred in Nigeria. M. Fievet says the reason is that the desert salt is stronger than any other variety.

Up to 1946 the salt caravans moved out across the desert in a huge unit of 20,000 to 25,000 camels as a protection against wandering tribesmen. But French rule brought peace to the salt route, and 100 camels now form the average caravan.

M. Fievet hired five camels to carry his baggage, water, and

photographic materials on the two-week journey to Fachi. He also carried a supply of anti-snakebite serum, as well as tobacco which he gave away as presents.

For the first two days he tried wearing the "tennis-racket" shoes which the nomadic Touareg people of the Sahara use for walking on soft sand; but they raised blisters and he had to go barefooted for several days afterwards.

Each morning at sunrise the caravan of 100 camels moved off, the drivers walking in the shadow of the camels. By eight o'clock all shade had disappeared, and M. Fievet then sat in front of the camel's hump with his feet on the animal's neck. For 16 hours a day the caravan moved on towards Fachi.

PRECIOUS WATER

During the journey to the salt grounds the caravan had to make for the famous Tenere tree—a single tree amid thousands of square miles of desert—with its well of water 150 feet below the ground.

Each evening when the stars came out the caravan leader took his bearings and noted his position. They had made progress towards their journey's end with uncanny precision.

M. Fievet noticed that the Touareg boys they met in the desert had their heads closely shaven except for one tiny tuft of hair. The reason for this, he was told, was so that the desert ticks would have only one spot to congregate in!

DESERT CEREMONY

Each novice accompanying the salt caravan into the desert had to undergo a "crossing of the line" ceremony.

"Where is Fachi?" was the stock question, and as no newcomer could possibly know the direction he was made to pay a forfeit. M. Fievet had to give six blocks of sugar and several pounds of tea for failing to point in the right direction.

Eventually, the camel caravan came within sight of Fachi.

There, outside the mud walls of the town, and glistening white under the brilliant sun, were the huge piles of salt—the precious stuff of commerce for which the long journey had been made.



Bouncing Boy

Three-year-old Melvyn Pullen, from Sydney, Australia, delights in showing his friends how nimble he is on the trampoline used by his parents in a London ice show.

ZULU'S NOVEL

A Zulu in South Africa, Arthur Nuthal Fula, has just had a novel published in Afrikaans—the first novel by an African ever to be published in this language.

The book, which is now being translated into Zulu and English, tells in vivid language the story of Native life in South Africa's big cities.

SOS FROM PITCAIRN

Quick action on an oil tanker recently brought urgently needed help to Pitcairn, the rocky dot of land in the Pacific where the mutineers from the Bounty settled in 1790.

Radio operator Andrew Young, himself a direct descendant of the Bounty mutineers, sent an SOS to all ships in the vicinity, asking if certain spare parts for a motor could be supplied.

Closest ship at hand, although still some miles away, was the tanker Melbourne, bound for Panama.

Working from wireless instructions, the tanker's repair men were able to machine the parts from steel plate and deliver them to the Pitcairn boat within four hours of the SOS call.

Andrew Young himself was in the boat to take charge of the parts.

After accepting the traditional Pitcairn hospitality of baskets of fresh tropical fruit, the tanker Melbourne steamed on its way as the islanders waved their oars and sang their farewell hymn "In the sweet by and by."

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BUDGERIGARS IN HOSPITAL

There was dismay in the children's hospital at Gringley-on-the-Hill (Gainsborough) when Sammy the budgerigar flew away.

Sammy belonged to four-year-old Alan Soye and his brother David, aged six, and he was a great favourite with all the children in the ward. He escaped to the top of a high evergreen while his cage was being cleaned.

The cage was left outside with the door open, but the next morning it was still empty, and for some time a number of rather sad little faces kept gazing from their beds at the windows, hoping against hope for Sammy's return.

Alas! it was not to be. But the story has a happy ending. Three newspapers related the tale of Sammy, and soon four new budgerigars arrived at the hospital.

Two of them are in the ward with David and Alan, doing their best to deputise for Sammy.

LITTLE PANAMA HAS BIG PROBLEMS

CN Diplomatic Correspondent

PANAMA, the little republic between North and South America, is preparing for her big annual festival. This country with a canal that belongs, so to speak, to a rich and powerful guest, will forget her grievances and worries for four whole days.

But as the people prepare for the revelries which begin on the last Saturday of this month, their Government will be thinking wistfully that more work, and particularly more production would better suit the republic's needs.

A former President of Panama once threw up his hands in mock despair, and said, half-humorously of his countrymen: "The only thing in life they take seriously is carnival!" Lighthearted the people of Panama may be, but this judgment did them less than justice. They take many things seriously, and since the war they have had increasing need to do so.

The Republic of Panama came into existence as an independent State just over 50 years ago—in November 1903. The Canal Treaty, signed at that time with the United States, enabled Panama to throw off the authority of neighbouring Colombia.

The canal is, in fact, a life-line for Panama. But its importance to the little Republic has brought discontent as well as benefits.

THEIR GRIEVANCES

President Jose Remón went to Washington recently to lay before the United States Government some of the grievances and worries which have developed in his country.

The Panamanians consider that the annual payment of 430,000 dollars made to them by the United States under the Canal Treaty is paltry.

They say that their workers in the Canal Zone are underpaid, and less well treated than the Americans employed alongside them. The merchants of Panama also consider that Americans on the spot should buy more of the local goods.

The general demand is for a revision of the Canal Zone Treaty,

which would take these grievances into account.

Nevertheless, President Remón, himself, has stated: "This is no Suez situation. We are not trying to throw the Americans out."

In fact, the Panamanian Government and people admit that it is essential for the Americans to stay in the Canal Zone.

Perhaps a settlement could more easily be reached if the Panamanians could present figures, for instance, on the amount of trade which they feel they have missed because of unfair competition from American goods.

NATIONAL TALENTS

These happy-go-lucky people, however, do not take kindly to accounts and statistics. The national talent is for music and dancing and fishing. (Their favourite pastime is fishing, and, indeed, the name of their country comes from an Indian word meaning "abundance of fish.")

But the Republic of Panama has stated its case, and there is every hope that in due course a new arrangement over canal concessions will be reached with the United States.

NEW CATHEDRAL

Building is to begin this year on a new Roman Catholic cathedral at Washington. It will be the largest Roman Catholic church in the U.S., and among the ten biggest in the world.

It will be built in the form of a cross 459 feet long and 240 feet wide, and it will seat 3000.



By the CN Press Gallery Correspondent

ONLY the other week we were discussing on this page a major Bill to amend the traffic laws and mentioned that it would not be coming this session.

That is now confirmed. But some limited permanent steps are to be taken by regulations under existing road laws. The Government are alarmed by the increase in road deaths—there were more than 5000 last year.

Consequently they have decided not to wait for a major Bill but to enforce certain penalties for all road-users. These will remind everyone once again to exercise care and consideration out of doors—walkers, pedal cyclists, motor-cyclists, motor-drivers.

Many road accidents are the result of hurry—our own or someone else's. Hurry to get to school, hurry to get to the office, hurry to get home to tea, and sometimes hurry for no reason at all.

THOSE who follow the parliamentary debates should look for more and more speeches on economic affairs. There never was a time when M.P.s and peers of all parties were greater experts on these matters.

One reason is the crisis through which we are passing—the continual effort to get a surplus out of our trade so that we can spend it on interest-producing investment abroad.

The sterling area's gold and dollar reserve stands at just under £1000 million. That is our "money in the bank," our capital to which we keep on adding our export-import trade surpluses (if we have any), but from which we must subtract any deficiency.

If all trade stopped tomorrow our present reserve would enable us to buy enough imports to live on at the present rate for just under four months!

That is why so many people at Westminster are worried, though it must not be thought that anyone is unduly depressed.

There is one way out of this—to keep on working hard and to make our export goods so well that we can keep and capture markets.

As someone said the other day, we are living in a vicious circle. That is to say, if costs and prices go up there are demands for higher wages, and, as these are a big element in commerce and industry, they put up prices still more.

Railway freights have gone up four times since 1947. These transport charges affect all goods and raw materials carried by rail—coal among them. And dearer coal as a result of dearer freights puts up the price of many things made from coal.

But if we understand these things we can face them. There is no real mystery about economics, and we should never be afraid to look the facts in the face.

News from Everywhere

UNEVENTFUL YEAR

No entries were made in the official records of the tiny village of Malleret in Central France last year. No one died, no one was born, and no one was married.

Helicopters are being used to clear frost from telephone wires in north Sweden. The planes hover above the wires, and the blast from the rotors does the rest.

Hammocks for children are being installed in Hungary's State railway trains.

A RAF pilot flying over Langdon Marsh, Worcestershire, saw some sheep being molested by a fox. Hastily scribbling some notes, he dropped them by the farmhouse, where they were seen by the farmer in time to save the sheep.

FOR YOUNG SCOTLAND

It is hoped to begin building 100 new schools in Scotland this year.

Sergeant George Scott, 16, of 1405 (Campbeltown) Squadron has won the Air Training Corps proficiency certificate. His prize is a five-day flight to Egypt and back.

A monument is to be erected in the areas of Holland which were flooded last year; it will record the gratitude of the Dutch for assistance given by other nations.

Tins labelled and sold as peas at Lewes, Sussex, were found by housewives to contain strawberries.

EVEREST MEN HONOURED

The American National Geographic Society has presented its Hubbard Medal to the successful British Everest expedition. First awarded to Robert Peary in 1906, the medal has been presented to 15 individuals, but this is the first time that it had been given to an expedition.

A bantam belonging to Mr. E. J. Cross of Tavistock, Devon, laid an egg within an egg. The outer shell was three times the size of the normal hen's egg, and the egg inside was the usual size.

COUNTING SHEEP

New Zealand now has more than 36 million sheep, an increase of over half a million on the 1952 total, itself a record.

An airliner about to take off from London Airport for Singapore had to stop at the end of the runway: the crew had forgotten to pack knives and forks for the passengers' meals.

A man in Tennessee, U.S.A., was excused jury duty when he explained that he was a professional magician and a mind-reader.

The British motor industry produced nearly 595,000 cars and 240,000 commercial vehicles in 1953. Of these 302,000 cars and 111,000 commercial vehicles were exported, earning £300,000,000.



All aboard for Maryland

A locomotive is always fascinating, and there must be many children who would love to board one. These lucky children can do so every day, for the locomotive on which they are playing stands in a park at Hagerstown in Maryland, U.S.A.



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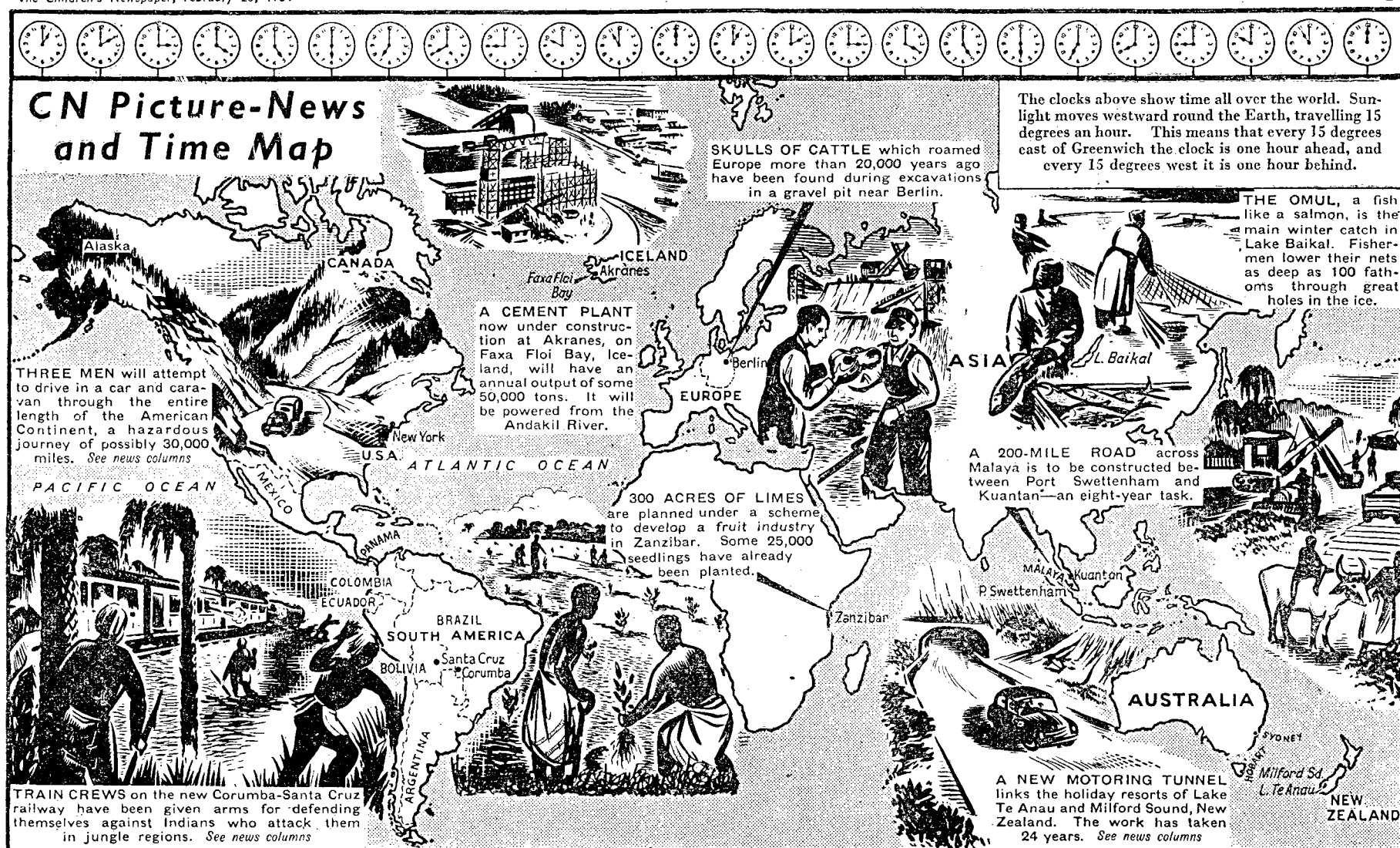
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FROM ALASKA TO ARGENTINA

Three men have begun an attempt at driving a car and caravan through the entire length of the American Continent, from northern Alaska to the southern tip of Argentina. If they manage to complete the journey, they will probably have travelled something like 30,000 miles.

The expedition, which has been helped by 80 British manufacturers, left London last month for Alaska. From there the three men will drive southwards through Canada, the United States, Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia, and into Argentina, to the final point at Tierra del Fuego, arriving perhaps about 15 months after setting out.

Through North America the expedition will not experience any serious natural obstacles, but in Southern Mexico and Panama it will pass through dense jungle before climbing to the highest deserts in the world, on the western side of South America. In Bolivia the men will drive through a pass 15,000 feet above the sea.

The car and caravan have been made amphibious, for there are rivers to cross, and at two places the expedition will have to put to sea, for impenetrable jungle bars the way by land. See World Map

LIGHTER TUNNEL

The black glass lining the Mersey Tunnel is being removed and replaced by a cream lining which will improve visibility. Two and a half miles each side will be changed, involving the removal of 18,700 square yards of glass.

GUIDE TO GOOD HANDWRITING

Cholmondeley School in Cheshire has built up a reputation for good handwriting, and so there should be considerable demand for two books on the subject written by its headmaster, Mr. Percy Wood: *Italic Handwriting for Schools* (E. J. Arnold, Leeds. Pupils' Book 2s., Teachers' Book, 2s. 6d.).

The Italic style of handwriting was started at the school four years ago by Lord Cholmondeley himself. "With some misgivings it was decided to give it a trial with the seniors," writes Mr. Wood.

"It was so successful that in 1951 it was adopted right through the school from five to 15. Now, the best writers do work far in advance of anything previously done and there are no 'bad' writers in the school."

TROUBLE ON THE LINE

Defensive measures have been taken to meet the menace of Indian arrows on the new railway between Corumba in Brazil and the Bolivian town of Santa Cruz.

The Bolivian-Brazilian commission in charge of the line are issuing firearms to train crews who have been subjected to recent barrages of arrows.

The savage Yanaiguas, either annoyed or frightened by the trains in their jungle regions, let loose a storm of arrows every time one passes through.

The new line is the first rail link between Brazil and Bolivia.

See World Map

HIS OWN MUSEUM

Gordon Farquharson of Dumfries, wants to be a museum curator when he grows up, and already he runs his own "museum" in his backyard.

His museum is only a little shed, but into it he has packed over 200 exhibits ranging from emus' eggs to Roman coins.

Living close to the St. Michael's cemetery, where the poet Robert Burns is buried, Gordon has begun



a collection of things belonging to the Burns period.

Gordon, who is seen here with his sister Margaret examining an emu's egg, has already presented a number of interesting finds to the Dumfries Burgh Museum and the Dumfries Folk Museum. On Burns' anniversary last month Gordon's exhibits helped to augment other local collections which were prominently displayed in the town.

NOT-SO-SIMPLE MACHINE

From New York comes news of an electronic "brain" devised to deal only with routine work deemed too simple for the more intricate and expensive calculators.

Its official description is a digital angular position encoder, but the people who manipulate it refer to it affectionately as "Dopey."

Nevertheless, it can determine the amount of yeast in a cake mixture, or the temperature range of various chemicals.

A man who helped to construct it has described its intelligence rating as being higher than that of the average man, but stupid in comparison with other electronic "brains."

SOS FROM ALGERIA

An urgent call for medical assistance from an amateur radio station at Constantine, Algeria, was picked up by Mr. Louis Varney, an amateur enthusiast of Chelmsford, Essex.

The Algerian station, operated by a Father Dominic, explained that a rare new drug called Actinomycin was urgently needed to save the life of a patient in Constantine. Unable to obtain the drug in Algeria, the Anti-Cancer Centre in Constantine had sought his help.

Mr. Varney contacted the Chelmsford Police, who passed on the message to the French Embassy in London.

All the messages and conversations were in French, which Mr. Varney speaks fluently.

ASBESTOS HAS A LONG HISTORY

Asbestos, which is often thought to be a modern fireproof material, has, in fact, a very ancient history. This has been outlined in a book issued to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the Cape Asbestos Co. Ltd.

Known in the ancient world as amianthus, asbestos was used as long ago as the fifth century before Christ. It was incorporated in the perpetual lamps of the Vestal Virgins who were responsible for tending the ever-burning fire of the sacred royal hearth.

A German geologist discovered large deposits in the Orange River Valley in South Africa in the early nineteenth century. But it was not until the end of the century that the deposits began to be used on a large scale and amianthus came to be commonly called asbestos.

NEW TUNNEL IN NEW ZEALAND

The new Homer Tunnel in New Zealand will enable motorists to drive through the mountain range which separates two beautiful holiday resorts—Lake Te Anau and Milford Sound.

The tunnel, three-quarters of a mile long and 24 feet wide, is 1800 feet below the surface of the Homer Saddle and 3000 feet above the level of Milford Sound.

Work on the tunnel and its approach road from Lake Te Anau was started 24 years ago, but avalanches have often hindered the work of roadmakers and tunnellers. See World Map



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It happened this week

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK KILLED IN HAWAII

FEBRUARY 14, 1779. Captain James Cook was killed by natives today on the beach of Kealahakua Bay, Hawaii.

His death follows the theft of a boat from the Discovery in which, with Resolution, the Captain set sail nearly three years ago on his third great world voyage.

The boat was stolen last night and Captain Cook "arrested" the king of the natives as a hostage until reparation was made.

Today he landed with a party of marines to retrieve the boat. The natives attacked, and the explorers had to retreat.

The Captain was the last to retire. As the party reached the shore a blow from behind felled him. He rose, resisting vigorously, but was overpowered and butchered.

Captain Cook's three voyages have placed Britain first among the maritime nations of the world, and his discoveries in the Antipodes promise magnificent opportunities for Britain.

GORDON AT KHARTOUM

FEBRUARY 18, 1884. Amid scenes of great enthusiasm Major-General Charles George Gordon today arrived in Khartoum to begin his work of rescuing the Sudan and establishing there an organised and independent government.

His arrival follows a month of doubt and rumour. On January 15 he attended a conference at the War Office in London. No plans were then made, and next morning he left for Brussels en route for the Congo to give his services to the King of the Belgians.

On January 17 he was summoned back to London by telegram and forbidden to accept the Belgian offer. He met the Cabinet on the following day and left for the Sudan the same evening.

(On March 12 the Mahdi—chief of the Sudan Arabs—attacked Khartoum. On January 26, 1885—after a siege of more than ten months—Khartoum fell and Gordon was killed.)

NINE-YEAR-OLD BOY IS CROWNED KING

FEBRUARY 20, 1547. Twenty-three days after the death of his father, the late King Henry VIII, his only son was today crowned as King Edward VI.

Archbishop Cranmer placed upon the nine-year-old monarch's head three crowns successively—the crown of his illustrious namesake, Edward the Confessor, the Imperial Crown, and a Crown which had been made specially for the occasion.

The new king is a studious child, prefers books to games, plays the lute, is interested in astronomy, and has written in Latin for more than a year.

He is short in stature for his age and has been described as "very delicate."

CADETS AT CRANWELL ON THE AIR

By Ernest Thomson, our Radio and TV Correspondent

No boy interested in a RAF flying career should miss the Home Service broadcast on Friday entitled Flying Cadet. The story of the RAF College at Cranwell—the Sandhurst of flying—it will trace the careers of typical cadets from start to finish of their training.

The programme will be introduced by the College Commandant, Air Commodore H. Eccles, C.B.E., and will include an extract from a speech by the Duke of Edinburgh on his visit to Cranwell last summer. Writer of the script is John Pudney, who was one of the BBC's official observers during the war.

Listeners will follow the course with several young entrants drawn from public schools, grammar schools, the ranks of the RAF, and countries of the Commonwealth.

They meet for the first time at the Selection Board and we shall watch them in their daily duties on the parade ground, in the classroom, and while flying, until the day comes for the passing out parade.

TV in schools

TELEVISION in school has been brought a step nearer by the results of an inquiry held by the Association of Education Committees on behalf of the School Broadcasting Council and the BBC.

Of 146 authorities consulted, 100 readily agreed to support an experimental period by equipping 500 schools with TV sets. Not one of the authorities consulted disapproved of the principle of teaching by TV. Experiments are timed to begin in 1955.

Two years ago the BBC gave experimental TV lessons to several London schools from a studio at Alexandra Palace.

Ballet days

THE fascination of a ballet dancer's career is the theme of Ballerina Story, a new series in the BBC Light Programme beginning on March 2.

John Watt, who wrote it, tells me it will be told by an imaginary ballet dancer, Adele Lenara, who has been dancing since the days of the famous Russian impresario, Serge Diaghilev, in 1910.

That famous and very popular radio actress, Gladys Young, will begin the narrative as the elderly ballerina; then, in a flashback, the tale will be unfolded from the early days by Cecile Chevreau, representing Adele when young.

The BBC Concert Orchestra will be playing some of the loveliest music in the ballet repertoire.

Ballerina Story may later be adapted for TV.

Effect of TV

HAS TV changed your pattern of life? Do you spend more time indoors, go less often to the cinema, read less, and play fewer games?

These are the sort of questions to be asked in a door-to-door quiz among 3000 households picked at random all over the British Isles. It is being organised by Mr. Brian Emmett, a BBC statistician in the audience research department, in an attempt to discover TV's effect on the nation's social habits.

He tells me that about 90 investigators will be engaged on the "tour," which will start in the Spring. Results will be published in the autumn.

Daffodil hunt

ROBERT MOORE, playing Police Inspector Hadley in the TV Children's play, The Scarlet Daffodil, on Thursday (repeated on Sunday) will be very much in character. Twenty years ago he was a London policeman.

The story tells of the three children of the inspector, a spare-time horticulturist who is trying to raise a scarlet daffodil. The bulbs he gives them break into scarlet flower but are then stolen, which leads to an exciting hue and cry.

Peter, Eileen, and Bobbie will be played by Bunny May, May Webster, and Sonny Doran. Also in the cast as a gipsy boy is 16-year-old Timothy Brooking, who is making a name for himself as the young Siamese prince in The King and I now being presented at a London theatre.

Visit to Oxford

WITH six mobile TV units, the BBC has been considering how to keep them all usefully occupied. The latest scheme is to station a unit in some famous town or district for a fortnight or more for a programme series on subjects of special interest.

The first choice has fallen on Oxford, and on Friday viewers will visit Christ Church, one of England's smallest cathedrals, noted for its beautiful Norman work and 600-year-old stained glass windows.

On Sunday an Oxford Union debate will be televised, followed on February 26 by an undergraduate revue called Oxford Accent. On March 2 a typical Don's rooms will be visited late in the evening for an informal talk between Dr. A. L. Rowse, the historian, Lord David Cecil, and Mr. John Betjeman.

THERE are now over three million television licence-holders in Britain. Some 3,500,000 television receivers have been produced by the radio industry and between 100,000 and 200,000 sets have been built by amateurs.



Robert Moore



Gladys Young

On the Royal Route

IN AUSTRALIA'S ISLAND STATE

ON Thursday February 18 the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will embark in the Gothic at Sydney and sail for Tasmania. They are due to arrive at Hobart at 10.30 on Saturday morning, and they will stay in the island until Wednesday morning, February 24, when they will fly from Launceston to Melbourne.

Australia's second oldest State, Tasmania, has an area of 26,215 square miles, a little less than Scotland, and a population of over 307,000.

Its name honours Abel Tasman, the Dutch navigator who discovered it in 1642. He called it Van Diemen's Land, as a tribute to the Governor of the Netherlands East Indies, who had dispatched the expedition; it became British in 1803 and half a century later the name was changed to Tasmania. Early postage stamps bearing the words Van Diemen's Land are prized by philatelists.

Not unlike the North Island of New Zealand, but with a special charm all its own, Tasmania is a lovely land of forest, mountain, and lake, with a pleasant climate which makes it a popular holiday resort for Australians.

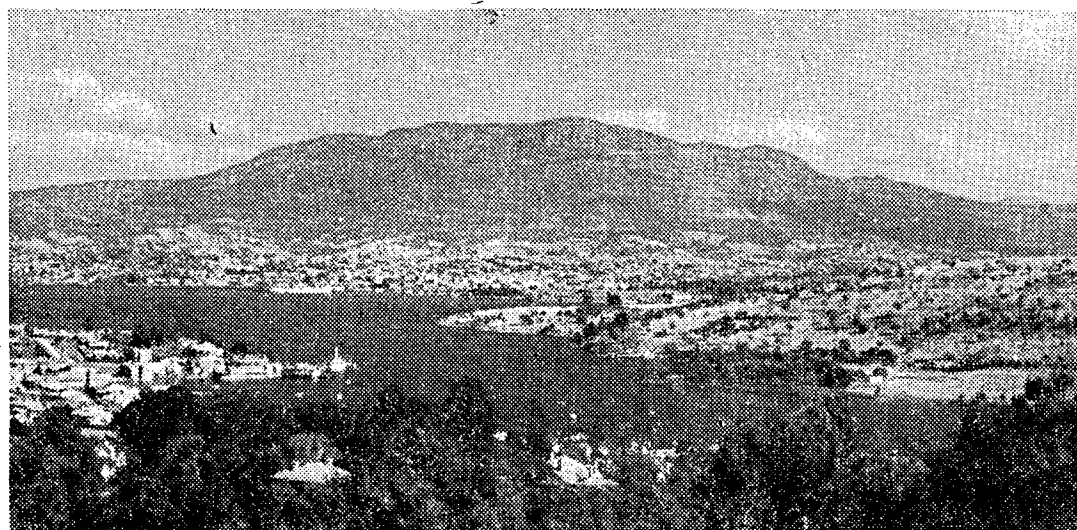
From Government House, Hobart, where the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will spend the

weekend, they will see glorious Mount Wellington soaring above the capital city's outskirts. It rises from the flat country around Hobart and can be seen for miles around, snow-covered in winter, but at this time of year a rich misty blue.

This mountain was the airman's guiding landmark during the Second World War, when regular anti-submarine patrols were made from Tasmania.

Wandering around the gardens of Government House the couple will see the "organ pipes," the 200 feet of precipitous rock alongside the summit, which resembles a huge organ. Many schoolboys who spend their holidays exploring their wonderful homeland climb this mountain from various points and for hours stand spell-bound at the wonderful view confronting them.

Tasmania is, of course, proud of its apple industry—throughout



The harbour of Hobart, capital of Tasmania, with Mount Wellington in the background

Australia it is always called "the apple isle." But it is no less proud of its hydro-electric power stations. Lacking coal but possessing an abundance of water, it was the first State in Australia to develop water power successfully.

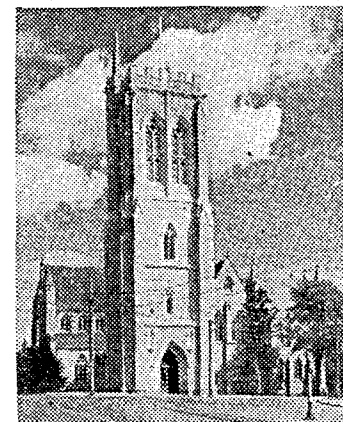
Some engineers, indeed, believe that there will one day be a surplus of power, and that Tasmania will be able to send it to the mainland by cable.

During their tour the Queen and the Duke will see many of these huge power stations. They will also see much evidence of the island's biggest export.

Orchards are everywhere in Tasmania because the climate is ideal for apple-growing. They are neat, well-kept orchards—and highly productive. In a good season the farmers always have to prop up the limbs to prevent them from breaking under the heavy weight of the fruit.

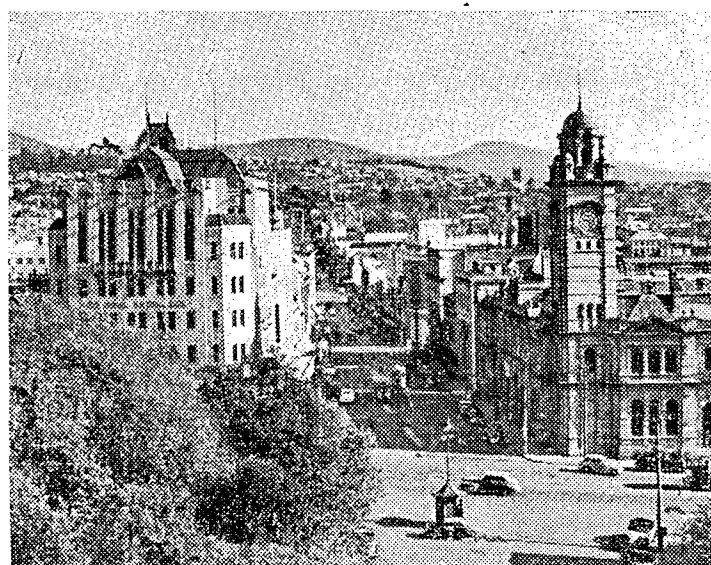
Some 7,500,000 bushels are produced every year, and of this mountain of apples we in Britain have sometimes taken as much as three million bushels. Other kinds of fruit are also grown, and much of it is made into jam for export.

During their stay the Royal couple will pass through Tasmania's northern ports from where the apples are shipped—Wynyard, Burnie, Ulverstone, Devonport. Within a few hours of each other they will all give a tumultuous welcome to the Queen and the Duke, who will end their journey at the fine city of Launceston and there bid farewell to Australia's island State.



St. David's Cathedral, Hobart

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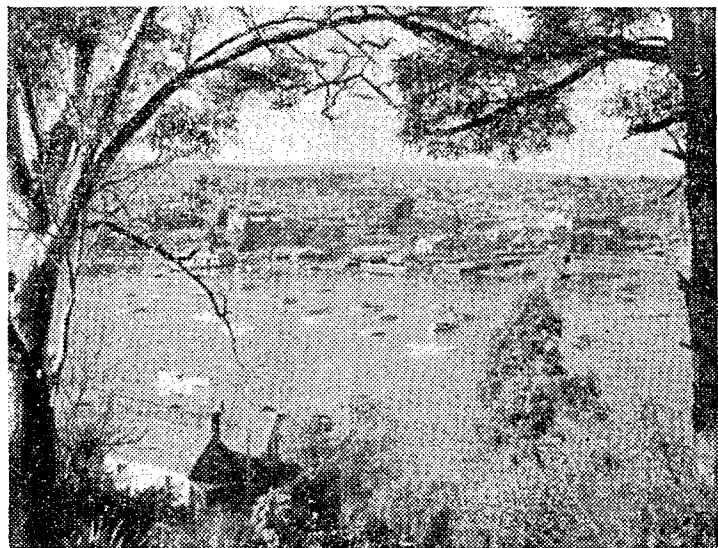
Elizabeth Street, Hobart



The north coast seaport of Burnie



Connorville, Cressy, where the Queen will rest next Tuesday night



The fine harbour at Launceston



Where the Royal visitors will stay—Government House at Hobart

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars · London · EC4
FEBRUARY 20 1954

KNIGHT ERRANT OF SCIENCE

LIKE a modern St. George is 53-year-old Mr. William Cooper of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Having volunteered to do battle with the dragon of malaria, he allowed himself to be bitten continually by 750 malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

Mr. Cooper had cheerfully submitted to an experiment to find out whether a certain kind of malaria germ attacks the human liver.

After being thoroughly bitten, he allowed the doctors to operate on him and remove a piece of his liver for study. Soon after the operation he developed all the symptoms of malaria. He was given a powerful anti-malaria drug, but was then threatened with pneumonia and had to stay in hospital for over a fortnight.

Now, safely recovered from his ordeal, Mr. Cooper has returned to work, happy in the knowledge that he has given the scientists the information they sought. And the scientists, as a tribute to his self-sacrifice, have named him as part author of their report.

Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war, sang Milton. And they are won by men like Mr. Cooper.

Calculated courage in the cause of science has seldom been more strikingly demonstrated.

Under the Editor's Table

An American firm has made a watch which tells the time on Mars as well as on the Earth. But it won't go there.

Warm clothes are not always stylish. But cold wind will make you smart.

TV weather forecasters are being allowed a limited amount of fun. Some dry humour will be welcome.

Ladies' hats are said to be getting like hats again. That is fitting.

BILLY BEETLE



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If skaters suffer
from cold feet

Some British hotel proprietors say the BBC should not boost Continental travel. Think that is going too far.

Acting gives children self-confidence. They do not want anyone to take their part.



The Editor's Table

IT'S ME!

ON being asked "Who is that?" some people have been known to answer "It is I!" Though perhaps feeling a little awkward and self-conscious as they spoke the words, at least they have known that they were on safe ground, technically correct.

But we cannot help feeling that the staunch band of It-is-I folk are fighting a losing battle in avoiding the colloquial, and recently they received a severe setback.

It is reported that during the Queen's New Zealand tour she overheard two small girls close to her car arguing whether it were the Queen or Princess Margaret inside.

Her Majesty leaned out and said: "It's me!"

Think on These Things

GOD needed a messenger to send to Pharaoh in Egypt, demanding that the people of Israel be freed from slavery. He had heard their cry, and so he called Moses and gave him the message bidding Pharaoh to let his people go.

Moses saw a burning bush out of which he heard God call; and he answered: "Here am I."

The task given him was so great that he doubted his qualifications. He was no orator, and what should he say if the Egyptians asked him for his authority and in whose name he made demands?

The simple answer was that God had sent him (Exodus, chapter 3).

At God's command Moses undertook a thrilling adventure. And he found that he had been given words to say and authority to speak in God's name, as well as strength and moral courage.

God always gives authority and courage to the bearers of His message. F.P.

Man's best friend

MR. J. H. JONES, M.P. for Rotherham, greatly moved the House of Commons when he told how when his horse was taken from him in the Army he wept like a child.

He was speaking in the debate on the Bill to regulate the traffic in horses, and he had the approval of all parties when he stated that "the horse has served mankind better than any other animal."

Perhaps the great days of the horse are over. Certainly the horse is no longer all-important, either on the roads or the farms.

What is all-important is our responsibility for horses in their old age, or when there is no further work for them to do.

"Man's best friend" deserves kindly treatment, and the House of Commons is determined to see he gets it.

Twin heads



Michael and Jean Killington, 15-year-old twins, are head boy and head girl of the Secondary Modern School at Stalham in Norfolk.

Thinking Day

NEXT Monday, February 22, nearly three million Girl Guides throughout the world will celebrate Thinking Day.

This is an annual event honouring Lady Baden-Powell, the World Chief Guide, and the late Lord Baden-Powell. February 22 was chosen because both "B.P.s" were born on that date.

The Girl Guides, and the Girl Scouts—as the Guides are still known in America and some other countries—stage various ceremonies on Thinking Day.

Contributions are also made to a Thinking Day fund which, operated from London by the World Bureau of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, helps to expand the movement and provide equipment wherever it may be needed.

The whole emphasis of Thinking Day is in fact on remembering and renewing links with Guides across the sea. It is, in fact, Thinking of Others Day.

JUST AN IDEA

As Cicero wrote: The best recommendation a young man can have is modesty

WINDFALL

A PROUD record for honesty has been established by the people of Maple Park, in the American State of Illinois.

The Christian Science Monitor has reported that as a train was passing through this locality during a snowstorm a mail bag broke and 26,000 dollars were scattered far and wide.

Citizens, seeing dollar bills floating down with the snowflakes, gathered them up and in the end returned all but 890 dollars to the authorities. The missing amount, it is believed, was carried off by the wind.

Oddly enough, a similar accident happened three years ago at Maple Park, when 30,000 dollars were scattered over the town, and all but ten dollars were handed back.

As the Christian Science Monitor commented: "The whole incident should help to restore the faith of those who believe that human beings in general and Americans in particular are a race of frenzied and unscrupulous dollar chasers."

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper,
February 23, 1924

NOR long ago the Sound was frozen over outside Copenhagen, and thousands of people flocked there to skate.

Then there came a sudden crack, and a large patch of ice detached itself from the rest and floated out seaward with 400 people on it.

In the Arctic seas drifting on a moving ice-field is an ordinary occurrence, accepted without alarm; but 400 people helpless on a comparatively small ice-field which is making its way towards less chilly seas is a more serious problem.

However, Copenhagen responded successfully to the call for help. Gradually steamers and boats took up the too-adventurous skaters without any loss of life. But it took six hours to do it, and we may be sure that more precautions will be used in the future when acres of ice show signs of breaking away from the main field and voyaging on their own account.

THEY SAY . . .

ARE we who belong to the Commonwealth content to be members of just another goodwill society, or have we a purpose and a faith in that purpose?

Australian Minister for Territories

I BELIEVE that man will cross space, if only to see what is on the other side.

Mr. A. C. Clarke, chairman of the British Interplanetary Society

I AM not in the least alarmed by being shouted at. I rather like it.

Sir Winston Churchill

A MAN with a tendency to be leftist may be all right.

President Eisenhower

WHEN I go to the theatre I don't like to sit too far back because too many actors don't break the sound barrier.

Fernand Gregh, member of the French Academy

I RAISE my hat to the boy and girl of today. They are better-mannered than we were.

Alderman Albert Smith of Sheffield

JUSTICE should always be cool but I see no reason why it should be frostbitten.

Judge Tudor Rees, in a cold court

Out and About

AT this time of the year changes of weather can swing us back towards Winter or forward to Spring. The days can seem good or unpleasant, just according to the hour when you specially take notice.

A little while back a cold drizzle of rain swept with the north-west breeze over these rather exposed fields. But that has stopped now, and the grey cloud-curtain overhead is breaking apart.

We have just had time to notice that the next field is quite green with winter wheat, when the clear song of a skylark pours down together with a burst of sunshine.

In cloudy weather the lark often seems to soar and sing as soon as there is a break-through of the sun.

At any rate, this lark's song, coming with the sudden sunshine, has turned the day into a good one, and made our walk seem well worth while.

C.D.D.



OUR HOMELAND

Medieval bridge spanning the River Wey near Farnham, Surrey

The Children's Newspaper, February 20, 1954

ROBOT LANDS 120 JETS AN HOUR

By the CN Flying Correspondent

During recent years one of the biggest problems confronting airfield control officers has been how to avoid "stacking" aircraft at different heights over an airfield while each awaits its turn to land. With the advancing jet age, the need to solve the problem has become even more acute, for jet planes use their fuel three times as fast near the ground as they do at their cruising altitude.

Various ideas have been evolved, but the first to prove fully effective is a recent American invention—Volscan. A combination of radar, radio, and robot, Volscan is the sort of gadget to be found in science fiction. It even makes use of an electronic pistol!

G.C.A. (Ground Controlled Approach) radar with which operators guide planes from two miles away from the airport right

down on to the runway is satisfactory in every respect. But the main difficulty lies in getting the aircraft sufficiently close to the airfield for G.C.A. to be used while keeping them at a safe distance from one another.

With Volscan each plane is brought in to land in five phases. First of all, radar detects the aircraft which appears in the usual manner as a "blip" on the cathode tube. On the appearance of the "blip" a technician places the nose of an electronic pistol against the blip and pulls the trigger.

His action relays the blip to a four-foot-high computer called Antrac, which tracks the machine and then passes its information to another "box of magic"—Datac. Datac in turn calculates the plane's speed, direction, and height, transferring them to a series of dials.

Finally, relaymen broadcast the

information shown on the dials to the pilot of each aircraft until he is ready to land.

Volscan radar contacts planes up to 60 miles away from the airfield, and eliminates "stacking" by automatically plotting a straight course to the airfield for the first plane of a batch, guiding the second plane in at a slight arc, and directing succeeding planes in successively wider arcs, so that there is a 30-second interval between touch-downs.

Mr. Benjamin Greene, designer of Volscan, claims that a complete unit, with two radar sets, 14 Antrac computers, and 14 Datacs can land 120 jets in an hour under any weather conditions.

Even the relaymen may soon be redundant, for Datac can radio its readings direct to dials on the instrument panels of the planes as they approach.

GRAVEN HILL, describing one of Manchester's attractions, says that...

BELLE VUE IS A MOST LIVELY ZOO

THE Zoo visitor accustomed to his annual look-round the well-known Gardens at Regent's Park may well imagine that they "set a pattern" for other British zoos. But in that he would be very much mistaken. The many provincial zoos in the British Isles develop and flourish on their own individual lines, and one that differs most notably from the London Zoo is that at Belle Vue, Manchester.

Belle Vue Zoological Gardens, of course, have a fine collection of animals. But they are by no means their only attraction. In Belle Vue are numerous other popular features—swings and roundabouts, scenic railways, even rifle ranges. Dog shows and trade exhibitions of all kinds stand side by side with houses containing wild animals from all over the world.

CHIEF INTEREST

In summertime open-air cafés and restaurants are thronged, and the Gardens are sometimes open at night, so that, in effect, it is possible even for a visitor to "sleep out." In such an atmosphere the four-footed and feathered inmates of Belle Vue have become accustomed to sights and sounds that might surprise their counterparts at Regent's Park!

Nevertheless, the chief interest at Belle Vue is centred in the animal population, and Mr. Gerald Iles, the superintendent, is always striving to earn for this northern menagerie a large role in the zoological world. Certainly there is plenty of interest to note at Belle Vue today.

Only a short time ago a brood of some 20 Indian cobras were hatched here, a rare event for these snakes in captivity. And, as I write these lines, they are trying to rear "on the bottle" the baby giraffe, whose photograph appeared in the CN a week or two ago.

The birthrate at Belle Vue is as high as that of any zoo in the country, and New Year babies here should include one or two Ankole calves. Ankole cattle, which come from Uganda, are of course noted for their very large horns, which

sometimes have a span of as much as four feet.

New animals are constantly reaching the Manchester Zoo from outside sources also, and among recent arrivals are a pair of most attractive lion cubs which Mr. Iles has named Samson and Delilah. This is in keeping with his own pet policy of giving either opera or ballet names to the larger cats in the collection; there are, for example, lioness Mimi, tigress Tosca, and leopardess Gilda.

The male lion cub was born in the Glasgow Zoo last September; the female came from Whipsnade, where she was born last July. But they have so taken to each other that most onlookers think them to be brother and sister. Mr. Iles tells me he is so pleased with these cubs that he is introducing them in his "animal parade" in Belle Vue's 25th Annual Circus.

TAME BOA-CONSTRICTORS

Another popular newcomer is Bobby, a llama from Whipsnade, which is now quickly making friends with the Manchester public.

Reptiles are well represented at Belle Vue, and among recent arrivals in this section are three boa-constrictors which were flown over specially from Dutch Guiana. They are to be presented in the zoo's circus.

"As I have to handle the snakes myself, it has been a matter of great relief to me that all three have become extremely tame so quickly and can be handled without any show of temper on the part of the boas," Mr. Iles told me. "Boa-constrictors are not, of course, venomous, but, if so minded, they could give one a very nasty bite."

The CN National Handwriting

STILL OPEN

Test of 1954 3 AGE GROUPS



1318 Cash and other Prizes Value £500 to be Awarded

THIS great competition for schoolgirls and schoolboys—the fifth of the nation-wide Handwriting Tests sponsored by CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER—is still open. Applications, however, whether for original or additional quantities of the Entry Forms, should now be made as soon as possible, while supplies are still available.

The Test is for all full-time pupils of schools and colleges in Great Britain, all Ireland, and the Channel Islands who are under 17, and schools and teachers throughout these areas are invited to co-operate in entering their pupils. The Entry Forms are issued free, but only through schools—and only on request.

Each entrant has simply to copy out the short Test Passage (given on the Entry Form) in the writing style taught in his or her school. Entries will be judged by a panel of educationists and other qualified examiners, and awards totalling £500 in value will be made for the best entries. Here is the full Prize List:

GROUP A (For Pupils under 9)	GROUP B (Pupils of 9 to under 13)	GROUP C (Pupils of 13 to under 17)
FIRST PRIZES—	FIRST PRIZES—	FIRST PRIZES—
To the School £25	To the School £25	To the School £25
Prize-winning Pupil .. £5	Prize-winning Pupil .. £5	Prize-winning Pupil .. £5
SECOND PRIZES—	SECOND PRIZES—	SECOND PRIZES—
To the School £10	To the School £10	To the School £10
To the Pupil £3	To the Pupil £3	To the Pupil £3
THIRD PRIZES—	THIRD PRIZES—	THIRD PRIZES—
To the School £5	To the School £5	To the School £5
To the Pupil £2	To the Pupil £2	To the Pupil £2

50 Copies of the Coronation Bible
—the Oxford Miniature Edition of the Bible
presented to the Queen at the Coronation.

50 Copies of "The Ascent of Everest"
by Sir John Hunt, Leader of the British
Expedition to Mount Everest in 1953.

1200 Fountain-pens—each Autographed with the Winner's Name

ALSO 10,000 AWARDS OF MERIT

—Certificates of Merit to be awarded for the best entry from each school not represented in the above prize list.

If you would like to try for a prize for yourself and for your school, please show this announcement to your Teacher, and (unless the school has already applied) ask him or her kindly to complete this coupon and send it in. Note that entries in the Test must be on the proper Entry Form which is issued free to schools.

The test may be done in school or at home, as decided by the Teacher. There is NO entry fee—but when returned, every pupil's attempt must bear one of the Tokens (marked CN Writing Test 1954) now appearing in every issue of

NOTE TO TEACHERS

The Entry Form contains the Test Passage, space for the pupil's effort and the full rules. It is issued only to schools on request. Teachers are asked kindly to assess the number of forms required as closely as possible, and to send for them on this coupon. The supply will then be sent free and post free. The latest date for form applications is Monday, March 1.

To CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER, Competition Dept., CN
3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

Please send me (free and post free).....copies of the
CN National Handwriting Test of 1954 Entry Forms for my pupils.

PRINCIPAL/FORM-
MASTER or MISTRESS

School.....

School Address.....

This coupon may be posted under r.d. stamp if sent unsealed

So snug—and so tired

Two studies from London Zoo. Gobbler, a young tawny owl, finds that wearing a shawl keeps out the cold.

Minnie the brown bear has a new litter of cubs which keep her busy, but she still manages to snatch a few moments' rest from time to time.



NEW MONUMENT TO B.P.

Three Boy Scouts of Los Angeles, California, have suggested a way to honour Lord Baden-Powell in which all fellow members can share.

They have proposed that a monument built of rocks contributed by Scouts all over the world should be erected on Mount Baden-Powell, just north of Los Angeles. When enough stones have been collected to build the base for a plaque, local Boy Scouts will start work.

The first rocks have already been sent by the boys who made the proposal, Ernest Nakano, Danny Gabrera, and Stephen Layton.

They confided their plan to an actor friend of Scouting, British-born Herbert Marshall, who recently had the rôle of Lord Baden-Powell in a radio play. Mr. Marshall brought the idea to the attention of the local Boy Scout organisation.

Mount Baden-Powell (9399 feet), second highest peak in the San Gabriel Mountains, received its name at the beginning of this century, when the government set aside this range of nearly 700,000 acres as a National Forest.

The purpose of the area is mainly for water-shed protection, but the public is admitted for outdoor recreation.

In the heart of it all Mount Baden-Powell lifts pine-clad slopes—truly a Boy Scout's paradise.

FILMING THEIR MISTAKES

At Altrincham in Cheshire 1000 schoolchildren will "star" in a special Road Safety Film to be shown at a local cinema. Shots of them were taken by newsreel cameras as they crossed the road.

Children, seeing themselves on the screen, will be able to note their mistakes and learn by them.



CRAVEN COTTAGE
WHERE FULHAM F.C. PLAY LEAGUE FOOTBALL. STANDS ON ROMANTIC GROUND...

WHAT IS NOW THE FOOTBALL PITCH WAS ORIGINALLY THE GARDEN OF AN OLD HOUSE. THERE WERE BROAD LAWNS, A WELL, TREES, FLOWERING SHRUBS, AND ORNAMENTAL LAKES, BUT LONG NEGLECT REDUCED THIS ONCE PLEASANT RETREAT TO A WILDERNESS. A YEAR WAS SPENT CLEARING IT AND, IN THE COURSE OF THEIR LABOURS, WORKMEN DISCOVERED AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE LEADING TO THE RIVER THAMES...

THE HOUSE WAS DERELICT, BUT A SMALL PORTION STILL REMAINS AND IS USED AS A CLUB-HOUSE



MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO LORD LYTTON LIVED AT CRAVEN COTTAGE, AND IT WAS THERE THAT HE WROTE HIS CELEBRATED HISTORICAL ROMANCE "THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII"

BIRDS IN FLIGHT AND BIRDS IN DISTRESS

How high do birds fly? Not many bird-watchers have a chance to obtain a bird's-eye view of the birds they study, and to watch them flying and migrating above the clouds. But in the 1952-3 Bird Report of the Merseyside Naturalists' Association, some ornithological flying men record their observations from aeroplanes during the past ten years.

A cormorant, a big black seabird, was seen flying 1800 feet high above Port Erin in the Isle of Man; a flight of wild grey geese was observed nearly 6000 feet high above the clouds over the Derbyshire Peak district; and a skylark was heard singing at 1000 feet in Lancashire.

One observer had soared in a glider with buzzards using the same thermal current of uprising warm air for 4500 feet over the Long Mynd in Shropshire. Over the Irish Sea an airman on his way to Dublin passed a flock of lapwing plovers migrating at 4500 feet. Another airman passed a flock of sand-martins flying 4800 feet above the English Channel.

Report on Wild Life by the CN Naturalist

At the seaside, anywhere around our coasts, you may now see a number of bird-watchers looking out for sea-birds covered with oil. For more than a quarter of a century the birds around our coasts have suffered because their plumage has become clogged with waste oil cleaned from tankers and other oil-burning ships.

A census made by 120 bird-recorders last winter found 1408 oiled birds of 49 different kinds, and a similar census has been organised this season.

More than half of the victims were sea-ducks and guillemots, and nearly a quarter were seagulls. Most of the others were divers and grebes, but gannets and wild geese were also among the victims of this oil age.

The most successful treatment is to loosen the oil first with some salad oil or other vegetable oil, and then to wash off with warm soap-suds and water. The bird

then requires a few days' rest, with fish food and a daily bath of water, before it is free from oil and fit enough for liberation.

Should you find a grey seal on the foreshore, see if it is wearing a numbered metal identity tag clipped to one of its flippers, for a number of baby grey seals were so marked at their birth-places around the British Isles in their recent breeding season.

Some young grey seals, marked on the Farne Islands, off Northumberland, recently travelled 400 miles across the North Sea to the coasts of Norway and Germany; and others from Ramsey Island off South Wales swam 100 miles to Anglesey and to the coast of Devon.

The first experiments at "marking" grey seals used the large bird-rings fitted to gannets, but it was later found better to employ metal tags like those used on the ears of pedigree farmstock. The tags bear not only an identity number, but a postal address for receiving the information. E. H.

CHARTERHOUSE OF LONDON

Canon McLeod Campbell, the new Master of Charterhouse in the City of London, takes over a 600-year-old office and will wear a gown that has been handed down to him from his predecessors. Unlike them, however, the Master will not live in the famous old Charterhouse Lodge, for this was seriously damaged by incendiary bombs during the war.

The Charterhouse itself keeps up its ancient traditions. Founded in the 14th century as a Carthusian monastery, it passed into the hands of the great dukes of Northumberland and Norfolk, eventually housing 80 "professional men, retired, and over 60," under the care of the Master.

There are now 15 poor and aged gentlemen in residence, each having their own room and receiving a pound a week—often more. When the buildings are fully restored there will be 45 in residence.

Also being restored is one of the former sights of London—the Great Chamber. Believed to be the finest Elizabethan room in London, it contained famous tapestries and lovely plaster-work, much of which was saved from the fire.

Although the chapel is out of action Charterhouse hopes one day to ring its curfew again over London—one stroke for each brother in residence.

BIG TOOTH

An elephant's tooth found in the cellar of a house at Middlewood, Sheffield, is thought to be a relic of the days when ivory was imported into the city for cutlery.

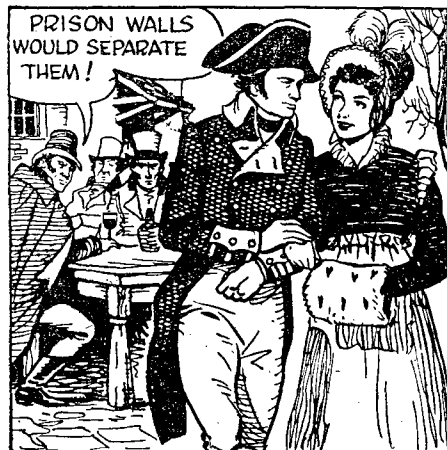
The tooth, which is from a young African elephant, weighs 5 lb. 4 oz., is seven inches long and three inches across. It is now in Sheffield's Weston Park Museum.

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO—Alexandre Dumas' famous story told in pictures (1)

When the Pharaon arrived at Marseilles in 1815 she was commanded by the mate, 19-year-old Edmond Dantès, because her captain had died on the voyage. The captain, before he died, had asked Edmond to take a package to

Elba, Napoleon's island. The young man knew little of the danger of having anything to do with the exiled emperor now that Louis XVIII was King of France and, thinking he was merely fulfilling the wish of a dying man,

he went to Elba and delivered the package. There he was given a letter which he agreed to take to an address in Paris. Arriving at Marseilles, Edmond was congratulated by the ship's owner for bringing her safely home.



Learning that he was to be the captain of the Pharaon, Edmond went to tell his sweetheart, Mercédès. The simple, honest sailor was unaware that he had two enemies: Fernand, who also loved Mercédès, and Danglars, who wanted to command the Pharaon himself. Danglars, who knew that Edmond had a letter from Elba to Paris, had the idea of denouncing him as a Bonapartist plotter in an anonymous letter to the authorities.

Next day, at the party held before the wedding of Edmond and Mercédès, a magistrate arrived with soldiers and arrested Edmond, refusing to say why. The guests were horrified, but Edmond was quite confident that there was some mistake. As the soldiers marched him off he told Mercédès he would soon see her again. Later he was examined by young de Villefort, the deputy procureur du roi, an important official.

Unsuspectingly, Edmond related what had happened at Elba. De Villefort turned pale as he read the letter Edmond had been given there. It was to de Villefort's own father (who was secretly a Bonapartist), revealing that Napoleon intended landing in France! De Villefort had disowned his father's beliefs in order to secure promotion in the service of Louis XVIII. This letter could ruin him! He threw it in the fire.

Edmond, who had not known what was in the letter, thought he would be set free when it was burnt. De Villefort made him promise to tell no one that he had brought a letter from Elba. Then Edmond was taken away. Later gendarmes put him in a boat and sailed out to sea, refusing to say where they were taking him. Soon the black and gloomy rock on which stood the Château d'If prison loomed out of the darkness.

How does de Villefort intend to ensure Edmond's silence about the letter? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, February 20, 1954

Further adventures at Linbury Court

ACCORDING TO JENNINGS

By Anthony Buckeridge

Jennings has accidentally locked General Merridew, an Old Boy, in the school library and cannot release him. Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Carter have gone to find a ladder to obtain entry through the window, when Darbshire reappears with the key. With some apprehension, the two boys unlock the door and release the angry prisoner.

5. An Old Boy remembers

FOR some moments the General's anger continued to simmer like a slowly cooling cauldron, while Jennings and Darbshire hopped from foot to foot in embarrassment, and mumbled a jumble of explanation and apology.

"We're terribly sorry we locked you in, sir. It was all a frantic bish—er—a mistake, I should say," Jennings volunteered. "We thought you were three friends of ours."

"You thought I was . . . ! Do I look like three friends of yours?" demanded the General, puzzled by what seemed a queer way of showing friendship.

"Oh, no, not really, sir. We were playing a game; and as our friends were hostile we had to chase them with invisible ray-guns, sir."

"He means the rays were invisible—not the guns," Darbshire added, so that there should be no doubt about the matter. "We were on the moon, you see, sir."

"On the moon!" The Old Boy's eyebrows shot up like the window blinds, as he sought to make sense of these fantastic explanations.

"Yes, sir; only not really, of course," Darbshire went on with a little nervous laugh. "Jennings was being Butch Breakaway, you see; but that's not his proper name, of course—any more than I'm really a bald-headed scientist."

Further details

It had not occurred to the General that the curly-headed figure before him was a bald-headed scientist. So he exhaled gustily through his moustache, and awaited further details with what patience he could muster.

"Yes, you see, I'm supposed to be Professor Darbshire, the famous inventor of Lunar Space Ship, Mark I; and according to Jennings there's no air around these parts."

"That's why we have to wear space-helmets, you see, sir," Jennings took up the tale, and prattled on.

And as he did so, a curious, gradual change came over the most eminent of Old Linburians. After a while he stopped fuming and h'mph-ing; his beetling brows descended to their normal level, and he listened to the apologetic prattler with interest—almost with sympathy.

Two reasons accounted for this change in the General's feelings. First, he had, after all, been able to snatch nearly thirty-five of his usual forty winks; and this in itself was enough to restore his spirits and enable him to face the rest of the day with his customary vigour. But, more important still, there was something about the taller of the two boys that reminded the General of what he himself must have looked like at that age. And the thought sent his mind racing back more than half a century to the days when he had been as lively a Third Former as ever harassed a long-suffering schoolmaster.

The more he thought of it the more it seemed to him that the games he had played then were not so very different from the games that these boys were playing now . . . Of course, they hadn't had space-ships in 1895—they'd had to make do with captive balloons.

All the same, lunar expeditions had been just as popular in his day when based on the books of

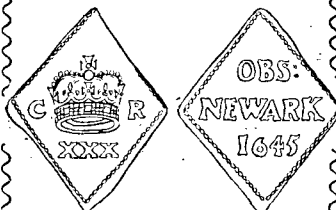
ENGLISH COINS

II. Civil War and Commonwealth

WITH the onset of the Civil War in 1642 the Tower mint fell into the hands of Parliament; but it continued to strike the coinage of Charles I until his death in 1649.

Mints were established in various provincial cities for the supply of coinage to the Royalists, and a number of them, including Oxford, produced handsome gold coins; but the majority struck only silver crowns and half-crowns with the portrait of the king on horseback.

A number of besieged cities had an emergency coinage of which the lozenge-shaped half-crown from Newark (pictured here) is an example.



In 1649 coins were ordered to be struck in the name of the Commonwealth. They were ugly and dull. The types common to all denominations bore simply, on one side, the shield of St. George and, on the other, the shields of St. George and of Ireland. For the first time the inscriptions were in English.

Jules Verne, as they seemed to be now, when borrowed from some "scientific" comic strip.

"Journey to the moon, eh!" he murmured nostalgically, when Jennings' tale had faltered to a close. "Well, well, how it takes me back. How clearly I remember those lunar expeditions we used to plan sixty years ago!"

"You—you mean you played those games too, sir?" gasped Jennings, unable to believe his ears. He was surprised to learn that space travel was not so up-to-date as he had supposed; but he was far more surprised at the mental picture of General Merridew charging round the school in the role of a 19th-century space-traveller.

The General chuckles

"Of course we played them. I wasn't always an old man with a white moustache," replied the General, chuckling to himself. "We took our ideas from that French writer-fellow who was so good at turning out stories of that sort . . . Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas . . . Around the World in 80 days . . . From the Earth to the Moon . . . we had them all in the library."

"They're still there," said Darbshire. "And I should think they're the same copies, to judge by the state they're in."

He disappeared through the door, and returned a moment later with a dog-eared volume which he passed across for their guest's inspection.

"Why, I believe this is the very one," breathed the General reverently. "From the Earth to the Moon, by Jules Verne. Well well, how it all takes me back!"

His change of mood was complete. No longer a peppery old soldier, but once again, in his imagination, an inky-fingered Third Former having the time of his life at the expense of some peppery old schoolmaster.

Old memories

"Ah, those were the days!" he sighed longingly. "And now I come to think of it, Jorkins . . . Jevons—or whatever your name is—I seem to remember that our lunar expeditions always used to finish up with a chase of some sort. Lots of dashing about and taking prisoners . . . Always led to trouble."

"So will ours, this time," mused Jennings sadly. "What with locking you in, and everything."

General Merridew laughed heartily.

"You needn't go on apologising about that," he replied. "It was nothing—a mere bagatelle. Why, now I come to think of it, I remember shutting our Latin master in this very room, 'way back in '97."

The two boys stared at him, wide-eyed with surprise. It was difficult to imagine this white-haired patriarch in the role of a ten-year-old practical joker.

"Oh, yes, I was quite a gay spark in those days," said the General, as old memories flooded back into his mind. "Now what was the master's name? . . . Old chap with a beard: began with a

Continued on page 10

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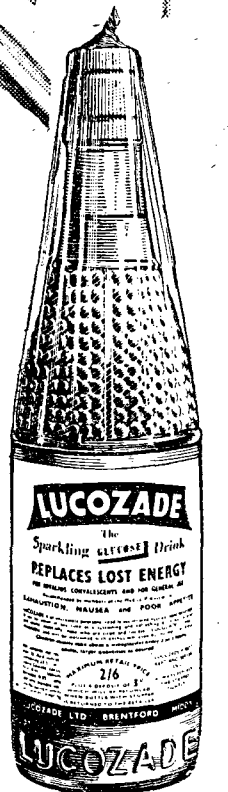
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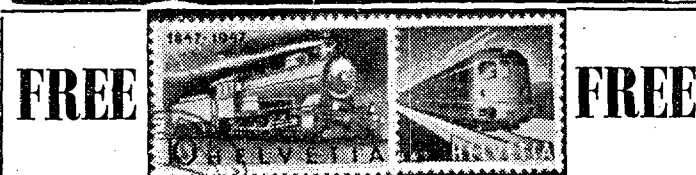


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SPORTS SHORTS

ALTHOUGH the new type of nylon screw studs for football boots do not strictly conform to Rugby Union rules, many clubs and players are using them. Professional Soccer clubs cannot use these nylon studs, however, until they have been sanctioned by international legislation.

M. HOCKING, playing in Adelaide league club cricket, recently set up a unique record by hitting eight sixes in one over. It might have been nine sixes, for he missed a "no-ball." But 48 runs in one over is something that has never been achieved in first-class cricket.

THE Burtonwood Gunners, an American team of footballers attached to the Burtonwood Army Camp, Lancashire, applied this season for membership of the Manchester Football League. With their League fixtures half completed they had not lost a match.

NEXT Saturday the All Blacks play the Barbarians at Cardiff. Having been defeated in their previous matches at Cardiff this season, they will be eager to win. Their final match will be against the South Eastern Counties at Ipswich on March 1.

HAVING passed the New South Wales C.A. umpires' examination, Miss Frances Aspinall, 20-year-old Australian schoolteacher, can now umpire men's cricket.

OLWEN FOSTER, a 16-year-old Harrogate schoolgirl, in her first championship race, won the Yorkshire Women's Cross-country Championship at Swinton.

KEMAL SHOAB, a native of Pakistan, came to this country last year to take a chemical engineering course. He also brought his table tennis bat with him; and now, at the age of 17, he is a member of the Middlesex junior team. His ambition is to win the Pakistan championship when he returns home.

THE hockey "Battle of the Blues" takes place next Saturday at Beckenham, Kent. Oxford won the game last year 5-2, but over the whole series of matches, which were instituted in 1890, Cambridge are in the lead by 25 games to 19, with nine drawn.

FROM Eastbourne, New Zealand, to Eastbourne, Sussex, recently came one green and yellow striped Rugby jersey as a token of thanks to the local team who entertained the All Blacks.

PAM HUDSON, 16-year-old member of Leeds Roller Cycling Club, broke her own British Ladies' roller cycling speed record when she cycled 440 yards from a flying start in 12 seconds—a speed of 75 m.p.h. In roller cycling the competitors pedal on a fixed machine which rests on rollers.

ACCORDING TO JENNINGS

Continued from page 9

B . . . Blenkinsop? . . . Blundell? . . . Bottlewell?—I don't know! Anyway, he was sitting in the library just as I was a few minutes ago, when I suddenly felt an overpowering urge to pull his leg.

He had not given the incident a thought for over half a century, but now as he recounted the story to his enthusiastic audience, he could recall every detail of that far-off afternoon when he had tied one end of a ball of string round the knob of the library door. Then he had stretched the string across the landing, over the banisters, and secured it to the clapper of the school bell at the foot of the stairs on the floor below . . . After that, he had knocked on the library door.

"And what happened then, sir?" asked Jennings eagerly.

"Well, old Bottleworthy . . . Boltinglass—or whatever his name was, tried to open it. And he couldn't, of course, because—ha-ha-ha—because the handle was tied. All he did was to ring the bell downstairs in the hall. Ho-ho-ho!" General Merridew broke off, convulsed with mirth, his face a delicate shade of purple, tears of laughter streaming down his cheeks.

"Oh dear, oh dear! The more he tugged the louder the bell rang, and he still couldn't open the door more than a—ha-ha-ha—more than a couple of inches."

Jennings and Darbishire felt a little uncertain about joining in the General's merriment. It was all very well for him to speak lightly

of imprisoning people in libraries, but he hadn't sounded so pleased when it had happened to him.

"This door opens inward, you see," the General said, with his hand on the knob. "I could show you how it worked if only I had a long piece of string."

With some hesitation Darbishire produced from his pocket the length of fishing-line with which he had planned to tie up any stray Lunaticians whom he might be lucky enough to capture. "Would this do, sir?" he asked.

"Capital! The very thing, Devonshire . . . Dorsetshire—or whatever your name is." The General took the line, tied one end to the door which he closed behind him, and then paid out the line across the corridor and over the banister rail. After that he led the way downstairs, feeling as though sixty years had dropped from his shoulders in the space of a few seconds.

"Still got the old school bell hanging in the hall, I see," he observed, as he tied the end of the fishing-line to the clapper. "Of course, we really need some unsuspecting person inside the library for the trick to work properly. However, we'll pretend there's someone there for the sake of my little demonstration."

The General was more fortunate than he realised. Though he had no means of knowing it, an unsuspecting person in the shape of Mr. Wilkins was, at that moment, climbing the ladder he had set up against the library window, intent upon his errand of liberation.

To be continued

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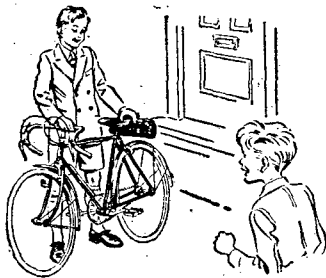
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IMMORTAL GIANT OF ART

"SEE that you never wash; have yourself rubbed down, but never wash." That was the advice given to one of the world's greatest artists, Michelangelo, by his father in 1500. It is one of the many intimate glimpses into the famous artist's long life—he died at the age of 89 on February 18 just 390 years ago—given to us by Agnes Allen in her book, *The Story of Michelangelo* (Faber and Faber, 12s. 6d.).

It is unlikely that Michelangelo paid any more attention to his father's warning against soap and water than he did to the advice his friends were constantly giving him to take more care of himself. He had no time for anything but his art, and he dedicated his peerless gifts to the glory of God.

His first attempt at sculpture attracted the attention of Lorenzo the Magnificent, ruler of Florence, who took the promising lad into his household.

A TOMB FOR THE POPE

Under the wing of this wealthy patron, Michelangelo soon became renowned as a sculptor. He was still a young man when commanded by Pope Julius II to go to Rome.

The Pope wanted a splendid tomb for himself, and he ordered the young sculptor to carve it. Later he decided he did not want the tomb after all, and Michelangelo—a moody person himself—was furious. He left Rome, but he was obliged to return and work on a bronze statue of the Pope.

Julius died in 1513, but he left orders that his tomb was to be completed, and so Michelangelo set to work on it again. He was dragged away from it by the new Pope to build a façade for San Lorenzo Church in Florence, and he is said to have wept at having to undertake this new task.

Michelangelo, however, did at times hit back at these capricious tyrants. When Pope Clement VII suggested that a colossal statue of

himself (as high as the Medici Palace) should be erected in Florence, the sculptor wrote a sarcastic letter to the Pope's agent.

To erect this Colossus on the Piazza, he wrote, would mean pulling down a barber's shop; but that would not matter as the shop could be re-established inside the hollow statue, which could hold a cornucopia in its hand through which the smoke from the barber's chimney could escape. He also proposed putting a dovecot inside the head! After that no more was heard of Clement's colossal statue!

Amid such frustration, and in the grinding poverty which he chose as his lot, Michelangelo produced masterpieces of sculpture, pictures, and architecture which for generations have held men in spellbound admiration—David, Moses, The Holy Family, Madonna and Child, the Dome of St. Peter's itself.

WORKING BY NIGHT

Yet this truly great man could act churlishly. When a favourite nephew proposed to make life easier for the artist in the evening of his years, the old man petulantly replied, "I know how to take care of myself if it is needful, and am not a baby." He was then 88!

Even then he often worked at night, wearing round his head a thick paper circlet with a candle attached to it. But the end was near. He put aside his chisel for the last time in 1564, bequeathing a legacy of art that ensured his place among the immortals.

STAMP NEWS

THE first Bermuda "Perot" stamp to be sold for 20 years has been auctioned in London.

In 1848 there were no stamps in Bermuda. The postmaster, Mr. W. B. Perot, used to take mail from residents, charge one penny, and frank the letters with a circular postmark.

When the office was closed people could drop their letters and pennies into a box which he had provided, but often there were more letters than pennies!

To overcome this he made his own stamps by writing one penny and his name on the postmark. These he sold to people wishing to post letters when the office was closed.

Collectors did not learn of this until 50 years later, and now only ten of these famous stamps are known to exist. They have a catalogue value of £700 each.

THE privately-owned Channel island of Herm now has a new set of stamps. They are valid only until the mail reaches Guernsey, where it is taken over (after due payment) by the G.P.O. and distributed in the normal way.

A NEW Liechtenstein stamp bears a portrait of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts.

NEW pictorial stamps recently issued for Nauru draw attention to this little Pacific Island, which is administered by Australia. Little more than eight square miles in area, Nauru, or Pleasant Island, as it was named in 1798, has only a few thousand inhabitants, nearly all of them engaged on sending phosphatic rock to Australia and New Zealand.

The island has no harbour, so the cargo ships that carry away the phosphatic rock must be loaded by a huge cantilever while they are tied to moorings, as shown on the 3d. stamp. The graceful frigate bird, which the natives capture and tame, is depicted on the 4d. stamp.

The 5s. stamp has a map of Nauru, showing its tribal districts.

AN 1867-68 Virgin Islands 1s. stamp, printed without the figure of the Madonna which should have occupied its centre, has been sold for £300 in London. Only five copies with this error are known.

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THE BRAN TUB

DIVIDING DAFFODILS

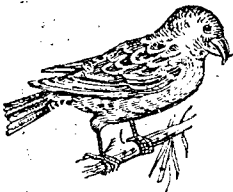
THREE thousand five hundred daffodils
Were picked by Mr. Peach.
He called his family to him
And he gave a share to each.
Mrs. Peach had twice as many
As her daughter Daisy.
Daisy double the amount
That went to sister Maisie.
Now ponder on these figures,
And maybe you'll perceive,
The quantity of flowers
Which each person did receive.

Mrs. Peach 3000; Daisy 1000; Maisie 500

SPOT THE . . .

CROSSBILL, probably in a fir or pine-wood, extracting seeds from cones.

The male is a handsome chap, with a red-dish-coloured back, brown wings and tail. Hens are olive-green and yellow, with



dark stripes, the young are of a yellowish-orange hue.

Despite their gay plumage, crossbills are not easily seen, but their low, twittering song may attract your attention. The oddly crossed mandibles, from which the bird takes its name, are ideal for removing seeds from cones, and for wrenching cones from twigs.

BEDTIME CORNER

This little pig went "whee"

MRS. PIG had eleven children. Ten grew big and fat very quickly; but the eleventh, who was much smaller from the beginning, hardly grew at all.

No wonder he did not! For his stronger brothers and sisters always pushed him away from the feeding trough. So he only got what they left, which was almost nothing.

One day the farmer let the young pigs out into the field beside their sty to dig up and eat any potatoes the plough had missed. Even Little Pig had a good feast, for there was room for everyone.

While they were rooting about some boys came by and left open the gate leading out of the potato field. "Let's go through!" said the ten. "No doubt the potatoes are bigger through there!" And Little Pig went too, because he did not want to be left out of anything.

Presently they realised that this field was all grassland, and there were no potatoes at all



there. "Let's go back," they said then. But when they reached the gate it was shut.

A passer-by, not knowing about the pigs, had closed it. So there they had to stay. All except Little Pig. He was so small he could wriggle back between the bars.

"Now they can watch me eat!" he cried with glee.

But somehow, with the others watching hungrily through the bars, and begging him to fetch their mother to rescue them, the potatoes did not taste so good. "Oh, all right! I'll go," said Little Pig. "But how I'll manage, I can't think."

However, as he ran up and down outside the sty crying "Whee!" for his mother, the farmer heard him. He soon discovered what was wrong and brought all the pigs back.

But from then, onwards, the others were friendly to Little Pig, and somehow he always got a fair share of food.

JANE THORNICROFT

JACKO AND BABY ON GUARD IN THE RAIN



The sentry on his beat took little heed of the approaching rain.



Jacko and Baby, however, were not made of such stern stuff.



But when the sentry changed his mind—they had to change theirs!

Add a letter

Can you find a three-letter word which means something usually thrown away and then find a different letter to put in front of it to make four-letter words with the following meanings?

A COLOURED band worn round the waist.

By this a word may be replaced. Of this most people wish for lots. An archipelago of spots!

A mess, it may be, or a stew. What dirty schoolboys hate to do. Another mess—or pound up small. A scourge or whip.

And that is all.
Answer next week

Trouble afoot

"THE brakes won't work," gasped the chauffeur in alarm.

"Well, stop the car then," replied the owner. "I'll get out and walk."

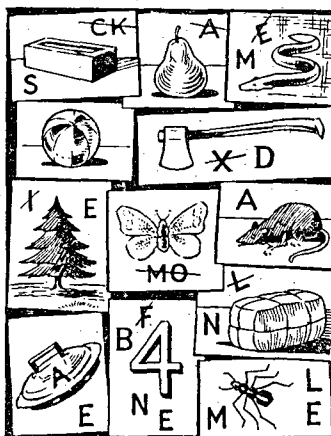
The way they see it

ANCIENT Egyptians used to paint eyes on their ships to help them to "see."

Even today some small Oriental ships still have eyes painted on them.

Can you . . .

. . . find the names of six Australian towns by pairing the pictures correctly?



Answer next week

JUMBLE QUIZ

To find the answer to each clue, rearrange the letters in the anagrams. Each solution begins with the letter O.

1. City and state of America; home of many descendants of the old American Indians; its name means "red people." (HA! LOOK, MA)

2. Port and holiday town of Belgium. (TENS DO)

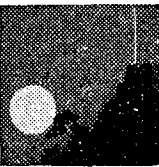
3. Member of large family of flowers, many of which grow in hot, damp climates; one provides the popular flavouring, vanilla. (RICH DO)

4. Fruit grown originally in the Far East, but now commonly in every continent; name of a line of sovereigns, including our William III and Holland's present Queen, Juliana. (ONE RAG)

Answer next week

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Jupiter is in the south. In the morning Mars is in the south and Saturn is in the south-east. Our picture shows the Moon as it will appear at half-past eight on



Thursday evening, February 18.

WHAT AM I?

IF the answers to the following clues are written down in a list, the initial and final letters, reading downwards, will spell the name of something that most of us like.

Worn by a countess.

What we should do if we have done wrong.

Strike lightly.

It is easy to do this on ice.

Eagle's home.

What we hear with.

Answer next week

The winner

HEAT and Cold both had a race.

"Heat won, of course," said

Don when told.

"There couldn't be the slightest doubt—

For anybody can catch Cold."

Localised

"MUM, I've got an awful pain."
"Where does it hurt, son?"
"In school, mostly."

Crossword puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Deserve 5 Health resort. 8 Built. 9 Smooth feathers. 11 Affirmative. 12 Boy. 13 Perform. 15 Alternative. 17 Average. 20 Master of Arts. 22 Era. 23 Sicken. 25 Urns. 27 Mislead. 28 Uneven. 29 Writing tables.

READING DOWN. 1 Tree. 2 Marsh plants. 3 Anger. 4 Nurse. 5 Pig's home. 6 Aristocracy. 7 Advertisements. 10 Reassembled. 14 Order of Merit. 16 Printer's measure. 18 Relieves. 19 Birds' homes. 21 Eager. 23 Fuss. 24 Lowest Common Denominator. 26 Hail!

Answer next week

Sammy Simple

"BUT I don't know his address," said John.

"Silly," reproached Sammy, "you can easily write to him and ask him for it."

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Two threes. Warden, button, earthly, jetsam, carpet.
In code. Aberdeen, Leamington, Harrogate, Leicester, Birmingham.
Jumble quiz. Nepal, nitrogen, Newcastle, nicotine.
Find the imps. Important, impossible, impact, impede, impudent, improving.

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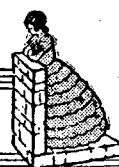
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